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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present note contains a proposal for the acceptance of 6 additional buildings and 12 open areas pledged by the Government of Italy in support of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in paragraph 8.

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1. The United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (UNLB), has been in operation since late 1994, under a rent-free arrangement with Italy. The arrangement is governed by a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Italy and the United Nations regarding the use by the United Nations of the premises on military installations in Italy for support of peacekeeping, humanitarian and related operations, concluded on 25 November 1994 and amended on 7 December 2001 to include three additional premises.

2. In its decision 58/557, the General Assembly, inter alia, took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the proposal for the acceptance of five additional buildings pledged by the Government of Italy to UNLB[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions.[2] By the same decision, the Assembly approved the transfer of five additional buildings pledged by the Government of Italy to UNLB. The five buildings, with a total floor space of 1,760 m^2, are located within the UNLB premises and had been identified in discussions with the Italian authorities with a view to accommodating UNLB operations and the strategic deployment stocks assets.

3. The Government of Italy has subsequently indicated its willingness to further transfer to UNLB 6 additional buildings with a total floor space of 6,805 m^2, as well as 12 open areas of 70,739 m^2. The buildings, which are located within the UNLB premises, have been identified in discussions with the Italian authorities with a view to accommodating the logistical and support requirements stemming from the surge in peacekeeping operations.

4. Taking into account the 5-buildings transfer, which was approved by the General Assembly in its decision 58/557, a total of 11 additional buildings with a combined floor space of 8,565 m^2, as well as 12 open areas of 70,739 m^2 would be made available to UNLB. As part of an overall reconfiguration of the Logistics Base, the buildings would be used to house the UNLB headquarters, including all administrative sections, the Air Operations Unit and the staff cafeteria, while open areas not adjacent to buildings would accommodate increased storage space requirements for assets and materials and assets deployment operations.

5. The market rental value of the equivalent total space of the six additional buildings and open areas indicated in paragraph 3 above is estimated on an annualized basis at around $600,000. The alternative of constructing containerized offices other than the development of the 600 m^2 satellite farm envisaged and provided for in the 2007/08 period would interfere with the logistical and aviation operations of the Logistics Base.

6. Under the principles established in article V of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Italy and the United Nations on exclusive use of premises, the United Nations would renovate 9 of the 11 buildings at an estimated cost of $3 million, as well as all of the open areas at an estimated cost of $600,000. Thereafter, the cost of maintenance, estimated at $350,000 per annum for the 11 buildings and $20,000 per annum for all of the open areas, must be borne by the United Nations.

[1] A/58/596.
[2] A/58/609.

7. The proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 for the United Nations Logistics Base would include provisions for the renovation of the buildings and open areas.

8. **The acceptance of the 6 additional buildings and 12 open areas, while being cost-effective overall for the Organization in the long term, would involve an additional financial liability for the United Nations in respect of the cost of maintenance of the buildings and open areas. The approval of the General Assembly is therefore sought, consistent with financial regulation 3.11. Upon approval, an amendment to the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Italy and the United Nations regarding the use by the United Nations of the facilities will be concluded.**